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Sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Thailand:* draft resolution

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 70/206 of 22 December 2015 as well as other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

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Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling that, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the international community committed to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world by 2030,

Noting that the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including Goal 15 and target 15.3, would serve as an accelerator to ending poverty and hunger, tackling inequality, empowering women and stimulating economic growth,

Noting also that combating desertification, land degradation and drought, by promoting sustainable development, may contribute to easing forced migration flows influenced by a number of factors, including economic, social, security and environmental concerns, which can, in turn, reduce current and potential fighting over resources in degraded areas,

Acknowledging that striving to achieve land degradation neutrality would significantly contribute to the three dimensions of sustainable development through the rehabilitation, restoration, conservation and sustainable management of land resources, and that this could potentially involve the development of voluntary national targets, as appropriate,

Noting that desertification, land degradation, drought and climate change are closely related and that, if not addressed, they would pose a serious challenge to sustainable development for all countries, in particular developing countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 70/206 on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;[2]

2. *Invites* parties affected by desertification, land degradation and drought to scale up their efforts, using available internal and external resources, for the implementation of their national action programmes, as appropriate;

3. *Encourages* developed countries party to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1] to actively support the efforts of developing countries party to the Convention in promoting sustainable land management practices and in seeking to achieve land degradation neutrality, by providing substantial financial resources, facilitated access to appropriate technology and other forms of support, including through capacity-building measures;

[2] A/71/216, sect. II.

4. *Also encourages* developed countries party to the Convention, and invites other countries in a position to do so, multilateral financial institutions, the private sector, civil society organizations and technical and financial institutions:

(a) To provide scientific, technical and financial assistance to help affected countries party to the Convention requesting assistance to set and achieve voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and to implement sustainable land management practices and land degradation neutrality initiatives;

(b) To establish equitable partnerships that encourage responsible and sustainable investments and practices by the private sector, which contribute to achieving land degradation neutrality that supports the health and productivity of the land and its people;

5. *Takes note* of the voluntary targets on land degradation neutrality, which contribute towards the efforts of some Member States towards land degradation neutrality, and invites countries to set such targets, as appropriate;

6. *Stresses* the importance of the further development and implementation of scientifically based, sound and socially inclusive methods and indicators for monitoring and assessing the extent of desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as the importance of efforts under way to promote scientific research in accordance with the Convention, and in this respect invites the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[3] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[4] within their respective mandates, to collaborate on their activities whenever they are related to desertification, land degradation and drought;

7. *Reiterates* the need for cooperation through the sharing of climate and weather information, forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as to dust storms and sandstorms, at the global, regional and subregional levels, and in this regard invites States and relevant organizations to cooperate in the sharing of related information, forecasting and early warning systems;

8. *Notes* the holding of the first African Drought Conference in Windhoek from 15 to 19 August 2016, which adopted a common strategic framework for a drought-resilient and prepared Africa and the Windhoek Declaration for Enhancing Resilience to Drought in Africa;

9. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa to take the initiative and invite other relevant agencies and stakeholders, such as United Nations agencies, international organizations, financial institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector, to seek cooperation for the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 15 and target 15.3;

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[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[4] Ibid., vol. 1760 No. 30619.

10. *Takes note* of the action already taken by the secretariat of the Convention in leading and coordinating two global partnership processes relevant to target 15.3 of Sustainable Development Goal 15, namely, the national level voluntary target-setting programme aimed at assisting countries in translating and implementing this global target at the national level to be coordinated with Governments, taking into account their national priorities, and an inter-agency advisory group, composed of representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Statistics Division of the Secretariat, created to develop the methodology and data options for monitoring Goal indicator 15.3.1 with a view to making a contribution to the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa".